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HUNGARY RETAINS DEATH PENALTY;
AGRICULTURAL, INDUSTRIAL SABOTEURS SENTENCED

FOLLOWS SOVIET LEAD -- Munich Hungaria, 11 Aug 50

At the beginning of 1950 the Hungarian Council of Ministers ordered the Minister of Justice to submit by 20 September 1950 a bill for the abolition of the death penalty.

The bill-drafting department of the Ministry of Justice held five meetings under the chairmanship of Stephan Riesz, the Minister of Justice who was subsequently arrested.

The preamble of the bill was submitted to the meeting of ministers held on 16 January 1950, in which Rakosi, Gero, Revai, Joseph Darves, and Joseph Bognar participated. At this meeting the preamble was thoroughly revised and Minister Riesz and Undersecretary Eugene Dulin were asked to submit the revised bill to the Council of Ministers, so that it could be promulgated on 1 July 1950 into law by government decree. However, this decree has not been promulgated in Magyar Kozlony, the official gazette of the Hungarian government.

The reason for the suppression of the proposed bill is that in the meantime the death penalty has been reintroduced in the Soviet Union. As a result, Rakosi made a 45-minute speech at the regular meeting of the Council of Ministers held in the first week of July 1950. He stated in his speech that it would be inopportune to give up this weapon at a time when the reaction is coming to the forefront in the industrial plants, as well as in the collective farms and the rural communities.

Rakosi also said that rumors are circulating all over the Great Hungarian Plain to the effect that war against Tito or an offensive by Tito against Hungary will be begun this fall. Rakosi then stated that in Baranya, Tolna, and Zala counties, Titoist agents are on the loose in the villages, recruiting kulaks for Yugoslav partisan bands. Here and there a reactionary is turned over to the State Security agents; but this is only a small part of the actual number of offenders.

- 1 -

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SENTENCED FOR FAILING TO REPAIR THRASHER -- Budapest Nepszava, 20 Jun 50

Istvan Milledér, of Peresznye, failed to put his threshing machine into operating condition within the time allotted by the Agricultural Administration and was consequently sentenced by the Szombathely Court to 2 years' imprisonment, loss of position for 5 years, and loss of political rights, and was fined 3,000 forints.

SABOTEUR RECEIVES 10-YEAR PRISON TERM -- Budapest Szabad Nep, 20 Jun 50

Oppositionist Sándor Farkas, agricultural saboteur, cut down his crop of rye while it was still green. Furthermore, many weapons, old secret military maps, and a military portable telephone were found in his house. He and his confederates were waiting for the "occasion" when they could use the cached weapons against the People's Democracy. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison by the Zala County court.

WAGE-CHEATERS SENTENCED TO PRISON -- Budapest Szabad Nep, 20 Jun 50

Four ex-fascists received jail sentences for wage cheating and forgery in the Salgotarjan Steel Mill. Those who had been intimidated by the four men testified willingly against them. Those sentenced by the Budapest Criminal Court were: Sandor Darazs, who had been rewarded and acclaimed by the military overseer of a factory in 1944 for his slave-driving tactics, to 2 years and 6 months in prison; Laszlo Miskolci, who had helped the Hungarian fascist party remove valuable property from the factory to the West after the war, to 2 years and 3 months; and Ferenc Nagyvaradi and Gyula Szeremi, to 2 years and one year and 6 months, respectively.

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- 2 -

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